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ESPLANADE
ARTS & HERITAGE CENTRE

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EXHIBITION DEVOTED TO EXPOSING HORRORS OF THE HOLOCAUST

Auschwitz: *The Eva Brewster Story*

April 6 – June 29

Medicine Hat – The Esplanade Museum and the Sons of Abraham-Medicine Hat are pleased to present **Auschwitz: *The Eva Brewster Story*** in the Esplanade's Heritage Gallery from April 6 to June 29.

In 1943, in celebration of Hitler's birthday, one thousand young Jews were transported to the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp. Among them were 21-year old Eva Brewster and her mother – two of only seven from that transport who survived the Second World War.

Two years of starvation, hard labour, beatings, serious illness and degradation followed while almost 1.5 million people were killed by Nazi hands, including Eva's husband Freddie and their four-year old daughter, Reha.

One of the last photographs taken of Eva's daughter, Reha. She is being held by Eva (right) and Eva's mother in 1942 outside of the Jewish hospital in Berlin. Reha would die in the gas chambers in 1943.

Twenty-five years after the war, Eva Brewster settled in Southern Alberta. She dedicated her life to writing about injustice and exposing the horrors of the Holocaust (Shoah) so that such genocide would never happen again. Her award-winning book, *Vanished in Darkness*, and this award-winning exhibition continue her commitment.

"We are honoured to partner with the Sons of Abraham-Medicine Hat, in bringing this moving and emotional exhibition to the Esplanade," says Donny White, Curator of Cultural History for the Esplanade Museum. "It provides an opportunity for everyone to share in this remarkable, albeit difficult story of survival."

OPENING RECEPTION – APRIL 6, 2008 2 P.M.

The opening reception is Sunday, April 6 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Esplanade, with the programme commencing at 2:15 p.m. in the Gallery Foyer. Among the many dignitaries speaking will be Eva Brewster's daughter and granddaughter as well as a representative of the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta.

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Auschwitz: *The Eva Brewster Story* was designed and produced by the Galt Museum & Archives in Lethbridge, Alberta, with cooperation from:

- Eva Brewster's family
- NeWest Press Ltd. (the publisher of *Vanished in Darkness)*
- the United States Holocaust Museum
- the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum
- the Shoah Foundation
- BBC & KCET Television

The exhibition has received acclaim in both Lethbridge, where it opened, and most recently in Red Deer.

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Attached:

1. Photo – One of the last photographs taken of Eva's daughter, Reha. She is being held by Eva (right) and Eva's mother in 1942 outside of the Jewish hospital in Berlin. Reha would die in the gas chambers in 1943.
2. Eva Brewster Bio

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EVA BREWSTER BIOGRAPHY

Eva Levy Raphael Brewster was born Dec. 28, 1922 in Berlin, Germany. With the rising anti-Semitism in Germany, in 1938, Eva attempted to flee Germany for South America, but was not allowed to travel on her own as a young, single girl. On Feb. 9, 1939, sixteen-year-old Eva married Freddy Raphael. As a couple, they attempted to leave Germany but found that borders around the world were closed to Jewish emigrants.

In 1941, all young Jews in Berlin were forced to work in factories. There Eva met two members of the Resistance and joined the Resistance in 1942. She was captured shortly afterwards and, at the age of 21, was sent with her Mother and 998 other Jews to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Of the 1000 sent that day, only seven survived: Eva and her mother were two of those seven. Eva's husband and daughter, sent on a later transport, did not survive.

Following the war, on April 1, 1947, Eva married Ross Brewster. Eventually, the couple moved to southern Alberta. Eva worked as a journalist, addictions counselor and physiotherapist and was a Municipal Councilor and Deputy Mayor of Coutts. In 1984, her book, Vanished in Darkness, was named the best Alberta Non-Fiction book.

Eva made it her life-long responsibility to expose the horrors of the Holocaust (Shoah), a promise she had made to her mother. Eva Brewster passed away at 81 years of age on Dec. 3, 2004.